

located in the matrix, in which there is a firmly anchored biospecific affinity reactant (Capturer), [wherein] and

ii. capturing Reactant* [is captured] in the detection zone (DZ) in an amount, being related to the amount of analyte in the sample,

[characterized in that] wherein

A) Reactant* has particles as an analytically detectable group, and

B) the Capturer is anchored to the matrix via immobilized particles[, which preferably exhibit hydrophilic groups on their surface].

✓ Claim 2, line 1, replace "characterized in that" with --wherein--.

✓ Claim 3, lines 1-2, replace "or 2, characterized in that" with --, wherein--

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [any of the claims 1-3, characterized in that] the Capturer is capable of binding via biospecific affinity a reactant which in turn binds analyte biospecifically.

✓ Claim 5, line 1, replace "characterized in that" with --wherein--.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [any of claims 1-5, characterized in that] the particles anchoring the Capturer have a size which is smaller than [the] a smallest inner dimension of the flow channels of the matrix.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [any of claims 1-6, characterized in that] the particles, which anchor the Capturer, have a size [being] in the range of 0.1-1000 μm [, preferably the range of 0.1-100 μm].

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [any of claims 1-7, characterized in that] the label particles have a diameter in the range of 0.01-5 μm .

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [any of claims 1-8, characterized in that] the flow channels have [the] a smallest inner dimension in the range of 0.4-1000 μm [, preferably 0.4-100 μm].

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [any of claims 1-9, characterized in that] the label particles are fluorescent or coloured.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [any of claims 1-10, characterized in that] Reactant* is predeposited in the matrix upstream of the detection zone (DZ) [and preferably upstream of the sample application site].

12. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [any of claims 1-11, characterized in that] the particles, which anchor the Capturer to the matrix, are a synthetic polymer, [or] a semisynthetic polymer or a biopolymer which on its surface exhibits hydrophilic groups.

A3 13. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [any of claims 1-12, characterized in that] the determination method is of sandwich type in which Reactant* is captured in the detection zone (DZ) by formation of the ternary complex Reactant'--- analyte---Reactant*, and wherein Reactant' and Reactant* are able to simultaneously bind analyte biospecifically and Reactant' is the firmly anchored Capturer or a reactant to which the Capturer may bind via biospecific affinity.

14. The method according to claim 13, [characterized in that] wherein the analyte is an antibody with specificity for either Reactant' or Reactant*, and [that] wherein

a) Reactant' is an antigen/hapten and Reactant* is an antibody directed to a constant antibody region on the analyte, when the antibody specificity of the analyte is directed to Reactant', or

b) Reactant* is an antigen/hapten and Reactant' is an antibody directed to a constant antibody region on the analyte, when the antibody specificity of the analyte is directed to Reactant'.

✓ Claim 15, line 1, replace "characterized in that" with --wherein--.

A4 16. (Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein [any of the claims 13-14, characterized in that] the analyte is of IgE class directed to an allergen.

17. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [any of the claims 1-16, characterized in that] the determination method is performed in connection with diagnosing allergy or autoimmune disease.

✓ 18. (Amended) A test kit for performing analytical methods in a flow matrix, which analytical methods utilize biospecific affinity reactions to detect an analyte in a sample, which kit comprises (i) a flow matrix having a detection zone (DZ), in which there is a firmly anchored biospecific affinity reactant (Capturer), and (ii) an analytically detectable reactant (Reactant*), wherein

- A) Reactant* has particles as an analytically detectable group, and
- B) the Capturer is anchored to the matrix via immobilized particles[, which preferably exhibit hydrophilic groups on their surface].

✓ Claim 19, line 1, replace "characterized in that" with --wherein--.

✓ Claim 20, lines 1-2, replace "or 19, characterized in that" with --, wherein--.

45 21. (Amended) A kit according to claim 18, wherein [any of the claims 18-20, characterized in that] the Capturer is capable of binding via biospecific [biospecific] affinity a reactant which in turn binds analyte biospecifically.

✓ Claim 22, line 1, replace "characterized in that" with --wherein--.

A₆ 23. (Amended) The kit according to claim 18, wherein [any one of claims 18-22, characterized in that] the particles anchoring the Capturer have a size which is smaller than [the] a smallest inner dimension of the flow channels of the matrix.

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24. (Amended) The kit according to claim 18, wherein [any of the claims 18-23, characterized in that] the particles, which anchor the Capturer, have a size [being] in the range of 0.1-1000 μm [, preferably the range of 0.1-100 μm].

25. (Amended) The kit according to claim 18, wherein [any of the claims 18-24, characterized in that] the label particles have a diameter in the range of 0.01-5 μm .

26. (Amended) The kit according to claim 18, wherein [any of the claims 18-25, characterized in that] the flow channels have [the] a smallest inner dimension in the range of 0.4-1000 μm [, preferably 0.4-100 μm].

27. (Amended) The kit according to claim 18, wherein [any of the claims 18-26, characterized in that] the label particles are fluorescent or coloured.

28. (Amended) The kit according to claim 18, wherein [any of the claims 18-27, characterized in that] Reactant* is predeposited in the matrix upstream of the detection zone (DZ) [and preferably upstream of the sample application site].

29. (Amended) The kit according to claim 18, wherein [any of the claims 18-28, characterized in that] the particles, which anchor the Capturer to the matrix, are a synthetic polymer, [or] a semisynthetic polymer or a biopolymer which on its surface exhibits hydrophilic groups.

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30. (Amended) The kit according to claim 18, wherein [any of the claims 18-29, characterized in that] the kit is [intended for] operable in a determination method of sandwich type in which Reactant* is captured in the detection zone (DZ) by formation of the ternary complex Reactant'---analyte---Reactant*, and wherein Reactant' and Reactant* are able to simultaneously bind analyte biospecifically and Reactant' is the firmly anchored Capturer or a reactant to which the Capturer may bind via biospecific affinity.

31. (Amended) The kit according to claim 30, [characterized in that] wherein the analyte is an antibody with specificity for either Reactant' or Reactant*, and [that]

a) Reactant' is an antigen/hapten and Reactant* is an antibody directed to a constant antibody region on the analyte, when the antibody specificity of the analyte is directed to Reactant', or

b) Reactant* is an antigen/hapten and Reactant' is an antibody directed to a constant antibody region on the analyte, when the antibody specificity of the analyte is directed to Reactant*.

✓ Claim 32, line 1, replace "characterized in that" with --wherein--.

✓ Claim 33, lines 1-2, replace "or 31, characterized in that" with --, wherein--.

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34. (Amended) The kit according to claim 18, wherein the kit is operable in a [any of the claims 18-33, characterized in that the] determination method [is] performed in connection with diagnosing allergy or autoimmune disease.

Please add the following claims 35-41: